

## Message Text

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R 141945Z DEC 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS STATE 302976

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, NI

SUBJECT: NAFSA INFORMS NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR OF CONCERN  
ABOUT NON-PAYMENT OF STUDENT FEES

1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FOREIGN STUDENT AFFAIRS  
DECEMBER 10TH WROTE AMBASSADOR SANU TO INFORM HIM THAT  
NON-PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FOR STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY  
VARIOUS UNITS OF NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ASSUMED "A  
CRITICAL DIMENSION." LETTER REFERS TO DISCUSSIONS WITH  
NIGERIAN EMBASSY BEGINNING EARLY 1975 AND TO ASSURANCES  
FROM AMBASSADOR GARBA THAT "STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN"  
RELIEVE THE SITUATION." DESPITE THESE ASSURANCES, THE  
NAFSA LETTER STATES, THE SITUATION HAS NOT IMPROVED.

2. LETTER THEN STATES NAFSA BOARD DECISION ON ACTION TO BE  
TAKEN:

(A) URGE ALL U.S. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO WITHHOLD  
I-20'S AND DSP-66'S FOR STUDENTS OF NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP  
UNTIL A CASH DEPOSIT HAS BEEN MADE, IN ADVANCE, TO COVER  
ONE YEAR'S TUITION, FEES AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.

(B) RECOMMEND ALL INSTITUTIONS CONSIDER REFUSING  
CURRENTLY ENROLLED NIGERIAN STUDENTS CONTINUED ENROLLMENT  
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UNTIL ALL PAYMENTS ARE MADE CURRENT.

3. HOWEVER, NAFSA LETTER CONTINUES, BEFORE TAKING THIS ACTION, NAFSA BOARD HAS AGREED THAT ONE MORE ATTEMPT BE MADE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM BY WRITING TO THE AMBASSADOR. THEREFORE, NAFSA WILL HOLD OFF PROPOSED ACTION UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, 1977. LETTER FURTHER NOTES THAT SHOULD CURRENT NIGERIAN STUDENTS BE DENIED ENROLLMENT, THEY WOULD BE OUT OF STATUS AND WOULD BE REQUIRED BY IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE TO DEPART COUNTRY, PROBABLY AT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT EXPENSE.

4. STRESSING THAT PRIMARY CONCERN IS WELFARE OF INDIVIDUAL NIGERIAN STUDENTS, LETTERS ENDS WITH REAFFIRMATION OF "DESIRE FOR AN AMICABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM." IN FIRST SENTENCE, NAFSA PRESIDENT SANFORD JAMESON OFFERS MEET WITH AMBASSADOR SANU, IF HE WISHES TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER.

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH DEPTOFF, JAMESON POINTED OUT THAT SIMILAR RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED AT NAFSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE LAST MAY. HOWEVER, REPRESENTATIVES OF NIGERIAN EMBASSY URGED CONFERENCE MEMBERS NOT TO PASS RESOLUTION BECAUSE STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION. UNFORTUNATELY, WHATEVER STEPS WERE TAKEN DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE HAD MUCH EFFECT, ACCORDING TO JAMESON, AND SO NAFSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS PASSED RESOLUTION STATED ABOVE.

5. DEPARTMENT PLANS NO ACTION IN THIS MATTER, AND WILL DISCUSS WITH NIGERIANS ONLY IF THEY RAISE SUBJECT. IF EMBASSY HEARS ANYTHING ON THIS SUBJECT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED. KISSINGER

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